

APPROVED MINUTES
HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING
May 9, 2000
LBJ Building, Boise, ID - Room 324 / 10:00 am – 11:45 am

Present:

Darrell Manning, Chair
Dennis Stevens
John Huffman
Charles Ruch

Bill Shipp
Ed House (for Richard Bowen)
Doyle Jacklin, EPSCoR Chair
Senator Laird Noh, EPSCoR Member

Jean'ne Shreeve, EPSCoR Project Director
Robin Dodson
Randi McDermott

I. Minutes of January 4, 2000 and February 8, 2000

MSC(Shipp/Stevens): To approve the minutes of January 4, 2000 and February 8, 2000.

II. Relationship and Roles of HERC & EPSCoR to the Statewide Science and Technology Advisory Council and the Statewide Strategic Plan

Dr. Dodson provided some background information on the HERC and EPSCoR relationship and their respective relationships to the State Board of Education.

Dr. Shreeve provided some background information on EPSCoR in Idaho. She added that the State has contributed approximately \$6 million to EPSCoR through HERC, and has received a total return of \$68 million.

Dr. Shipp provided some background and future direction for the Statewide Science and Technology Advisory Council, and their role in providing direction in the area of science and technology in order for the State to be competitive and leverage its resources. He described the beginning stage of developing the Statewide Strategic Plan for Science and Technology and the intent to hire a consultant to assist in drafting it.

It was noted that there are centers of science in the state that need to be included in the process, as well as developing a good communication link with the research community. Dr. Shipp relayed that part of the development of the Plan will be to inventory existing capabilities, and to use the connection with Dr. Hoover, who is a member of the Advisory Council, to solicit information from university researchers in the best way.

Dr. Shipp concluded by stating that a draft of the Plan is expected in September, with the final version due in early December.

General Manning summed up the relationship of the three, with the EPSCoR tie-in existing through Doyle Jacklin, the EPSCoR Chair and also a member of the Statewide Science and Technology Advisory Council, the HERC tie-in existing through Dr. Hoover, and the education system as a whole through Greg Fitch, the Board's Executive Director and also a member of the Statewide Science and Technology Advisory Council Executive Committee. Dr. Shipp welcomed Senator Noh's advice on interaction with the Legislature. It was suggested to meet early on with key legislators who have been involved with the research and/or science and technology community and keep them informed of and involved in the initiative.

III. FY 2001 Budget

MSC (Ruch/Shipp): The allocation for the FY 2001 HERC Budget was approved as follows:

Infrastructure: \$600,000

Boise State University: \$150,000

Idaho State University: \$150,000

Lewis Clark State College: \$ 60,000

University of Idaho: \$240,000

Matching – NSF EPSCoR: \$600,000

Research Center Grant Program:

ISU CERE \$342,300

TOTAL BUDGETED: \$1,542,300

A discussion ensued regarding EPSCoR funds to help pay the consultant writing the Statewide Science and Technology Plan. Dr. Shreeve reported that in order to obtain funds from NSF EPSCoR, a special request would have to be made, and that it would be highly unlikely to receive any funding within the next year.

HERC discussed the possibility of using some of their remaining FY 2001 funds for this purpose.

MSC (Ruch/Huffman): To allocate \$50,000 from the HERC 2001 budget to the Statewide Science and Technology Advisory Council to use in paying a consultant to write the Statewide Strategic Plan for Science and Technology.

A discussion ensued regarding which HERC program the funds would come from, and whether policy language would need to be altered to allow the expense. There was consensus that the Council would not pursue policy changes, but would rather seek approval for a one-time expenditure outside of the three HERC program categories for this purpose.

IV. Graduate Assistantships

Copies of the Request for Application for the Graduate Assistantship positions needed to aid in the development of the Statewide Plan for Science and Technology were distributed. It was noted that the institutions should only forward their top candidates.

V. FY 2002 Budget Request

Copies of the FY 2002 HERC budget request, as submitted to the State Board of Education, were distributed for the Council's information. Senator Noh noted that the Council should be careful and develop a clear strategy in requesting tobacco settlement funds, hence they may have their general fund appropriation replaced if tobacco funds are granted. It was decided that this should be a topic of discussion at the next meeting.

The HERC Chair requested that staff provide all materials to be voted on to the Council in advance of any meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.